

Portsmouth School Committee Minutes

October 26, 2004

Public Session

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cassese at 7:10 PM. The following members were present:

Mr. Ralph Cassese, Chair

Mr. Duncan Ingraham

Mr. Jack Taylor

Mr. James Seveney

Ms. Karen Gleason

Mr. Roy Twaddle

Absent: Mr. Terry Kavanagh

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Cassese announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM. The motion to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a) (1) Personnel Matters, (a) (2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; and (a) (8) Student Discipline, was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Twaddle for discussion. So voted 4-2. Mr. Ingraham and Mr. Twaddle voted against going into Executive Session. Mr. Cassese announced that one motion was

made in Executive Session. The motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to negotiate the Director of Finance and Administration's contract in Executive Session. The motion failed 3-3. Ms. Gleason, Mr. Ingraham, and Mr. Twaddle voted against negotiating in Executive Session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Ryan announced that the Gymnasium Project Committee held an information session on October 13th at the PHS gym. On October 19th, Mr. Ryan attended a meeting with the Rhode Island Foundation regarding looking at ways for the three Aquidneck Island high schools to share resources. On October 21st, the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation held its annual Fall Showcase at the Green Valley Country Club. On October 23rd, the Homecoming Parade and football game were held at PHS.

A motion was made by Mr. Seveney and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Twaddle had concerns about the reporting of the Executive Session motion. He stated that the motion was not on the tape. Mrs. Cofield stated that a motion had been made and was recorded on tape. Mr. Seveney amended his motion to approve the minutes of the meeting pending clarification of the Executive Session motion. So voted 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Appt. – School Nurse Teacher, PMS. A motion was made by Mr. Seveney to affirm the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-10/26/04, to the position of School Nurse Teacher at Portsmouth Middle School for the 2004-05 school year. Seconded by Ms. Gleason for discussion. After much discussion, the motion failed 3-3. Ms. Gleason, Mr. Ingraham, and Mr. Twaddle voted against the motion.

b) Approval of Requests for Permission to Home School. A motion was made by Mr. Twaddle and seconded by Ms. Gleason to approve the request to provide home schooling for the 2004-05 school year for student HS#17-10/26/04, as listed in the confidential memo dated 10/18/04, in accordance with the provisions of R.I. Law 16-19-2. So voted 6-0.

BUSINESS AGENDA

a) Report on School Performance Ratings. Mr. Ryan stated that the Department of Education's 2004 School Classifications show that all five Portsmouth schools are in the high-performing category. Portsmouth High School has been classified as high-performing and improving for the past two years, and Hathaway and Melville Schools moved from the moderately-performing category last year to the high-performing category this year. The schools were classified by

tests taken last March by students in grades 4, 8, and 11.

b) Report on Fast ForWord Program. Mrs. Lamont-Woolbright, Mrs. Grimes, and Mrs. Phaneuf gave a presentation on the Fast ForWord Program that was implemented at Elmhurst and Portsmouth Middle School over the summer months. A training session for parent volunteers is scheduled to take place on November 1st to further implement the program.

c) Report on Literacy. Mrs. Dvorak and Ms. Trudeau, the part-time Literacy Coaches, re-reported on literacy activities to date. Mrs. Dvorak oversees the literacy program at the three elementary schools and Portsmouth High School, and Ms. Trudeau oversees the program at Portsmouth Middle School. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are the main focus areas, with assessment, intervention, and progress monitoring taking place accordingly.

Mr. Ryan thanked Mr. Cassese, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Seveney for their years of service to the Portsmouth School Committee and presented them with plaques and Town tiles in appreciation.

A motion was made by Mr. Ingraham and seconded by Mr. Seveney to adjourn the meeting. So voted 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cofield

Recording Secretary for

Karen Gleason, Clerk